

Remarks

In a telephone interview on November 15, 2007, Examiner Zhe and Applicants (by patent attorney Philip Lyren) agreed to amend independent claim 1 to include recitations from dependent claims 6 and 14. The remaining independent claims were also to be amended in a similar manner. In exchange for this amendment, the application would be in condition for allowance.

In this after-final response, the claims are amended in accordance with the telephone interview. Specifically, independent claim 1 is amended to include the recitations of dependent claims 1 and 14. Further, independent claims 20, 29, 30, and 38 are amended in a similar manner. Dependent claims are amended to coincide with the amendments to the independent claims.

In view of the amendments, Applicants make a sincere effort to place this application in condition for allowance in accordance with the telephone interview of November 15, 2007.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 6, and 14 are objected to because of informalities. The claims are amended to cure these objections.

Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1 – 45 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 4,843,541 (Bean). These rejections are moot in view of the interview of November 15, 2007 and corresponding amendments to the independent claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to Philip S. Lyren at Telephone No. 832-236-5529. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,
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